(d) Loss making banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank to reduce non-performing assets, increase average yield on advances and investments, reduce high cost funds and also contain credit expansion, reduce capital expenditure and not to undertake recruitment of fresh staff.

(e) and (f) The operational profit for public sector banks during 1995-96 was Rs. 7568.87 crores as compared to Rs. 5628.33 crores during 1994-95. The reasons for public sector banks incurring net losses during 1995-96 inspite of operating profit have been given above in reply to part (b) of the question.

[Translation]

Ban on Litigation of Public Interest.

*393. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a ban on public interest litigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received a number of representations against the said move; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No; Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Anti-dumping mechanism

*394. SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Board of Trade held a meeting at New Delhi on February 18, 1997 with the representative of the Confederation of Indian Industry for a strong anti-dumping mechanism;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified or proposed to identify the foreign industires which are following dumping policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The meeting broadly discussed adequacy of the mechanism in India and the need to expedite investigations in a time bound manner. The Government is continuously monitoring the progress of filling of anti-dumping petitions by the industry before the Designated Authority prescribed under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, and will strengthen the set up as and when necessary. As for expediting investigations, the various time limits have been laid down in the statutory rules (which conform to Article VI of the WTO Agreement.) These time limits are adhered to be the Designated Authority.

(c) Complaints and investigations regarding anti-dumping are specific to exporters overseas. There is no survey or identification of exporters or overseas industry for this purpose.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.

Low Ash Coal

*395. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T. : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand of low ash coke from various Industries in the country as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the main industries that require low ash coke;

(c) whether the production of low ash coke is sufficient to meet the requirement; and

(d) if not, the steps the Government propose to take to boost the production of low ash coke ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Planning Commission assess demand of raw coal sector-wise. Demand of hard coke is not assessed separately. According to the information received from Coal India neither there is any demand registered with them for low ash coke nor do they give any linkage for low ash coke.